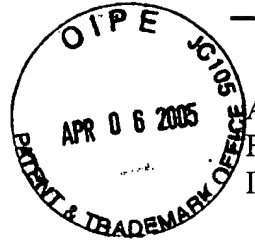


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Application No.: 09/886,238

Filed: June 20, 2001

Inventor(s):

Jeffrey D. Washington

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD
FOR ENHANCING THE
READABILITY OF A
GRAPHICAL PROGRAM

Examiner: Vu, Kieu D.

Group/Art Unit: 2173

Atty. Dkt. No: 5150-48500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Jeffrey C. Hood

Signature _____

Date _____

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF
JANUARY 13, 2005**

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action of January 13, 2005, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.

Telephone Interview Summary

On March 2, 2005, a telephone interview was conducted between the Examiner, Mark S. Williams, and Jeffrey C. Hood. The prior art of Thomsen was discussed in regards to the limitations of claim 1. Mr. Hood, who prepared the Thomsen patent, suggested that the figures illustrating the 3D nodes of Thomsen were high-level representations, and that the terminals shown on these 3D nodes were not intended to be taken as entirely technically accurate. For example, terminals not used on each 3D node were not displayed in the figures; however, this omission was for brevity and simplicity

only, i.e., no means were described to suppress or omit the display of the unused terminals, and such functionality (not displaying terminals that are not used) is not considered part of Thomsen's disclosed invention. The Examiner agreed that Thomsen did not appear to teach this feature, and indicated that she would discuss these issues with her supervisor. Applicants also proposed amending independent claim 1 (and similar other independent claims) to clarify the claimed invention, specifically, to replace the term "programmatic" with "automatic", to include the limitations of claim 2, and to remove "creating" from the claim.

Please amend the case as listed below.